

RIVER CURRENTS

VOL. XXX No. 4

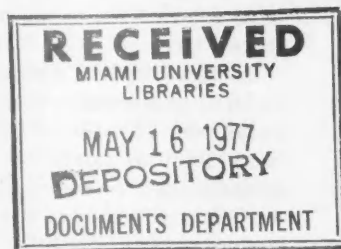
Features, Comment & News for the Second Coast Guard District

UNIONIZATION

What does it mean?

HUMAN RELATIONS

What is it?



'SUSART'

Search & Rescue

RIVER RIPPLES RETURNS!



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An unofficial publication **RIVER CURRENTS** is published under the direction of the Public Information Office.

News, feature stories and photographs are solicited from all Coast Guard personnel. Material will be published on a space available, news significance basis and by-lines may be given, if requested.

RIVER CURRENTS is published at the Second Coast Guard District Public Information Office, 1520 Market St., St. Louis, Mo. 63103.

from the editor

By now, you have already noticed that **RIVER CURRENTS** looks different than it used to. We are obviously making quite a few changes.

SN Michael Waller, our last editor, is presently attending the Defense Information School and will move to the photo-journalist billet in the Boating Safety office upon his return.

He's done a very good job, especially when one considers that he is a "striker". He spent a lot of time putting together this magazine, with very little help from the office staff. We appreciate the work he had put into it and wish him well in his new assignment.

As your new editor, I thought I would commandeer this space to explain my philosophy of what this District publication should be; including my hopes (dreams?) for its future.

The District magazines of the Coast Guard have fallen on hard times. They have been down-graded by everyone from the new SA in the field to the Public Affairs Officer. Why?

I feel it's because they have simply not been worthwhile. A lot of space was given over to local events that, while newsworthy of themselves, have not been of major interest to the majority of readers. Photos have been used just to fill up empty space rather than as necessary to help explain a story. The magazines were no more than an expensive means of gathering information for waste baskets. (The results of an informal survey have shown that a large majority of **RIVER CURRENTS** "readers" receive the magazine, leaf through it, then ditch it.)

As you see in this issue we have brought back "Reggie's River Ripples" to condense all the newsy events into a single area. We have added more general interest military news, also in a single area. We have begun a feature column on human relations and thrown in more feature material in general.

I believe that the entire Second Coast Guard District family; military, civilian and dependent, have wider interests than who received a Letter of Commendation on the other side of the District. Awards and citations deserve to be publicized, as do other major accomplishments of units or individuals, but this can be done in a manner that leaves space for material that is of interest to everyone.

Our goal is to provide interesting reading to the most people of this District. Our criteria for accepting material for publication is very broad; simply, will the majority of readers find it worthwhile and is it something that can't be found elsewhere. Even within this broad ideal there is much leeway. The thoughts of District personnel on events that deal with them can localize an article even if the same general material can be found in NAVY TIMES or your daily newspaper. (LTJG Kinney's article on unions in the military, for example.) We would not even rule out fiction or poetry if we felt it could somehow come under the broad guidelines we have set.

We also hope to get more feedback from individuals. We would love to see an exchange of ideas presented in a "letters-to-the-editor"

column. With our broad idea of accepting material we hope you, the reader, will consider submitting not only letters, but articles, stories or anything you feel would be of interest. We can't guarantee to publish everything, but we will certainly consider positively, anything submitted. This magazine is part of the Second District, and the people are the District.

We would also appreciate your comments on the apparent changes taking place in the magazine. This issue is somewhat of a test copy. It will take time for it to evolve into a steady, but hopefully never static, publication. We assume that most of the people related to the Coast Guard are literate and capable of reading the relatively short articles printed in RIVER CURRENTS, if they are interesting enough. We don't feel that we have to talk down to you or at you. This magazine can be a forum for the discussion of ideas and events that affect the Service and the people of the Second Coast Guard District. JK, Ed.

Send comments, suggestions or hate letters to:

Editor, RIVER CURRENTS
Second Coast Guard District
1520 Market St.
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

MILITARY UNIONS

LT(jg) G. O. KINNEY

"... I'm not chipping another inch of paint until I talk to the grievance committee ..."

"... The deck force is out, I'm not crossing their picket line ..."

"... The shop steward said I didn't have to do it, Sir ..."

"... That's not in my contract ..."

Are these and similar situations in the future of the military, or only in the dreams of union hopefuls? Perhaps neither. But they do surface when people in uniform start discussing unions. However, if the turn out at a recent unionization meeting in California was any indication, not nearly as many service people are as interested as some, both for and against, would have everyone believe. At the well-publicized meeting sponsored by the American Federa-

tion of Government Employees (AFGE) in Oakland, Calif. (Navy Times 4 Apr 77), only four out of the over 13,000 military in the area showed up.

Though this attitude of disinterest seems both well founded and prevalent, some of the questions raised relating to military unions provide interesting food for thought.

— Since their beginnings, the services have existed and, though with difficulty at times, been able to handle their own problems. Why a union now?

— Would a union really be able to be effective in representing the hundreds of thousands of people in uniform today?

— Where would the line be drawn between management and union members? (officer/

enlisted, CPO/lower enlisted, senior/junior officers)

— The unions have been effective only by dealing with a final authority. Which level of Government would the unions deal with? (CO? Administration? Congress?)

— Would the military become "closed" (all must be union members) or "open" (both union and non-union personnel)?

— Unions received their initial worker support because they were subjected to extremely harsh and unfair conditions in mines, sweatshops, and factories. Do service people today strongly feel that they are in a similar situation with no available solution to problems?

— When workers at a particular private company strike, there is always an alternate source of goods and services. Would members of the military place the American Public in a situation with no "alternate source" for their vital services?

— The unions only real bargaining tool has always been the strike. Would anyone contemplate allowing (or would unionists contemplate using) strikes or slowdowns considering the serious public service and national security implications?

— Would a union, by its nature, violate the trust the American people have in the Armed Forces and our constant responsibility to "preserve, protect, and defend"?

— Since a union would have no real bargaining power, would it help, or, as has happened in local public unions, only lose existing benefits and take existing flexibility out of the system?

— Because any union would undoubtedly be prohibited from striking, and only exist on a broad national level dealing with pay and benefits (AFGE goals) wouldn't it simply duplicate the current efforts of such organizations as the Fleet Reserve Association, National Association for Uniformed Services, CPOA, American Legion, VFW, etc. who already lobby on the serviceman's behalf?

— Wouldn't a coalition of existing service oriented groups (CPOA, FRA, NAUS, VFW, etc.) be as effective if not more effective than a union?

— If an established union such as AFGE were recognized as representing the military, with recognized limited power, who would benefit more, the dues paying individual, or the union organization itself?

— A historic union task has been to resolve local grievances with management. Isn't this being done already by existing "people

oriented" problem solving methods and programs including the Command Enlisted Advisor, Human Relations Counselor/Facilitator, etc. within the chain of command?

— Would reaction and possibly overreaction to the topic of unions at this time by either prospective union members or "management" possibly lock the services into a future of more problems than solutions?

— Why not deal with the basic problems of erosion of benefits, securing equity with the cost of living, etc. by existing methods rather than contrive an additional solution (unions) whose effectiveness would be questionable at best?

Though there is no hard and fast resolution to many of these questions, they all seem to lead to a cumulative answer to the idea of military unions. Rather than be concerned with the who, what, where, when, why, and how of a union itself, this energy could better be spent, by all concerned, in using established means and methods to resolve any existing problems. Ideally, there should be no need, or basis for a feeling of need, for a military union.

Admiral O. W. Siler in his State of the Coast Guard message on 25 January 1977, said "Although I personally feel that unions are clearly not feasible in the military, the pressure to establish them now is very understandable to me. Certainly, unions have been highly successful in upgrading salaries and benefits in the private sector. The question the military man asks himself today is 'will the union do the same for me?' I firmly believe the best way to avoid unions within the military is to eliminate those factors upon which such movements feed. No military man enters the service with the idea that he is going to get rich. But don't ask that man to put his life on the line and occasionally throw him a crumb-or worse yet, try to take back the crumb.

Undoubtedly, military benefits will continue to be a heated topic in the months and years to come. The Coast Guard's position is to work fully for competitive salaries and benefits for all our people and to resist as strongly as possible, any changes which would erode those benefits. I do not, however, overlook our constant need and responsibility as managers and leaders to manage our personnel resources and costs in the most efficient manner possible. I still believe we can do this and keep faith with and protect the interests of our most precious asset and resource — people."

HUMAN RELATIONS

PAI James R. Kosch

WHAT IS HUMAN RELATIONS?

"Discrimination against minorities and against women imposes unacceptable social, economic and manpower losses on this Department and on the nation as a whole." (William T. Coleman, Civil Rights Policy Statement)

Is Human Relations simply a less objectionable term for race relations? A resounding NO!! echoes from the mouths of Human Relations Counselors/Facilitators.

While the Coast Guard's Human Relations Program began in the late Sixties to answer calls to eliminate racial prejudice, it has since taken on a fuller meaning without forgetting its original purpose. Sociologists, psychologists, and thus our counselors, have come to recognize that better communication and understanding between *all* individuals is a basic step in discarding all prejudice. Therefore, the accent today is on relations between all humans, recognizing that each individual in our society comes from a different mixture of social and cultural backgrounds and is a separate entity unto himself, as well as a member of one or more minority groups.

Many of the Human Relations Counselors/Facilitators in the Coast Guard are drawing from this broader thought of the Seventies and applying it in their Human Relations Seminars. They attempt to stimulate discussion among Seminar attendees on the subjects of communications; Contemporary thought, Cultures and Movements; personal as well as institutional discrimination; affirmative action programs, personal and institutional in both the civilian and military communities and the procedures for submitting complaints of discrimination.

Communications are a major factor in any relationship. The knowledge of how to express one self clearly and understand the thoughts and feelings of others is basic to human compatibility. There is much more involved in the exchange of ideas between people than language.

Language itself is limited by a persons cultural background and his present environment. If an individual was raised in the suburbs (as studies have shown to be true to most Coast Guardsmen) words will have a different meaning to him than to someone raised in the inner city or a rural community. We are all familiar with the difference in slang terms used in various parts of the country, but in larger cities there are often great differences in word meanings between ethnic groups.

But there is more than a difference in word usage reflected here. Lifestyles, attitudes and values are also dependent on a persons surroundings.

Any suburbanite recognizes the primary necessity of owning an automobile. Yet, in a city such as New York, many people of all income levels rightly feel that an automobile is nothing but an expensive toy and probably a hindrance to their daily duties. Even after moving to an automobile oriented area such as California, the New Yorker has a difficult time adjusting to the need for personal transportation and the demands it puts on his time and income for maintenance. He discovers, perhaps for the first time, that those who rely on their cars are not a lower, less independent class, but simply live by another lifestyle that finds necessity for different trade-offs of dependence and independence.

This is a simple example to be sure, but it reflects many attitudes that arise when people of different background meet. Often these differences are so far apart we look at them as being totally opposite, right and wrong, better and worse. We see differences between white-collar and blue-collar, management and labor, officer and enlisted, civilian and military, not to mention the numerous racial, ethnic and religious differences. We often set our sites on these differences rather than the common humanity that binds us all.

Differences are good. They provide the variety that makes life interesting and lead to

personal growth. Identifying with ones own cultural background, racial group and other peer organizations gives us a sense of worth, of status, and even defines to ourselves, as well as others, who we are or would like to be. This self-identification can make us more worthwhile individuals to our communities as well as ourselves. Until we know ourselves, we cannot truly know others.

But, occasionally, this self-identification becomes an escape. Rather than using it as a tool to really "get into" ourselves, we use it to define what is wrong with others. Everyone likes to feel that he is right. That his organization, his values, his friends are the right ones, the best ones. This is natural in everyone. But it isn't necessary to declare everything outside of our own little world bad.

It is possible for everyone to open his mind, to find what is of value in the different thoughts he confronts, and to, if necessary, disagree agreeably.

This is the broader perspective of the Human Relations Program. It shows us how we are each different from the other. It discusses some of those differences. It discusses the positive values of discrimination as well as the negative aspects of prejudice. It shows us the difference

between prejudicial actions of an institution and the prejudicial actions of individuals within an institution.

Affirmative Action Programs are also discussed. Not only those of government and industry, but how to develop a personal affirmative action program in your own private life, and thereby benefit from the diversity of opinion in America.

In the Human Relations Seminar you also learn how prejudicial discrimination affects everyone and what you, the individual, can do about it, who to talk to and how to submit a complaint that will receive action.

In future articles of this series we will take more detailed looks at various forms of communication, basic psychology and self-awareness. We will discuss the current thought of various movements. If you have any suggestions as to what you feel should be covered in this wide-ranging column, please send them on. Any comments, questions or suggestions are very welcome and should be addressed to:

Editor

River Currents

Second Coast Guard District

1520 Market St.

St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

MILITARY PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT!

Ask Only for Fair Treatment

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1977 (AFPS) — General George S. Brown, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed his concern about a trend which threatens to erode the Services' continuing ability to attract and retain the numbers of quality people needed in the Armed Forces.

The JCS Chairman articulated a military-people-are-important theme when addressing the 25th Anniversary Banquet of the Women's Forum on National Security held recently in Washington, D.C.

The Nation's leading military man pointed

out that basic pay, retirement, medical care, leave, housing, and commissaries came under question in the last budgetary cycle.

General Brown said that, apart from the merits of any proposal for change in compensation, three things are wrong. First, by addressing such matters piecemeal, people in uniform feel the entire compensation system is under attack. Second, the dollars and cents savings of some of the real or proposed cuts are small. Third, the constant nibbling approach reflects a lessening of concern or recognition for men and women in uniform.

CINCINNATI RESERVE MAKES NEWS

The following article was published in the Mar. 31 issue of HERALD, a newsletter of the Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati. We are reprinting it here as an example of the impression made on the civilian community by conscientious attention to standard Coast Guard duties as performed by all members of the Coast Guard. Ed.

Until the past winter, most Cincinnatians did not think much about the Ohio River. It was just there, like the hills, part of the scenery. But Charlie Bell thought about that river — a lot.

Charlie Bell is environment control coordinator for the psychiatric facilities at the Union Street Pavilion of the hospital, but in his off-duty hours he is a Lieutenant in the Coast Guard Reserves. In that capacity he is responsible for seeing that his unit helps the regular Coast Guard patrol, inspect and secure this link in one of the country's major river networks.

He is proud of his unit's community service, pointing as an example to their voluntary duty during the ice emergency this winter.

"There was no emergency call-up of the Reserves," he says, "although we could have had one. Any given day we had an average of 31 people that we could call on. They volunteered their time for that day.

"Ours is, as far as I know, the only Coast Guard Reserve Unit in the U.S. that augments the regular Coast Guard on a 365-day-a-year basis."

Augmentation means that the unit supports the U.S. Coast Guard in port safety and security, boating operations, recruiting and public affairs, and aid to navigation. It also has programs for management training, community group sponsorship and military community relations.

Lest one think of Cincinnati as an inland city rather than a "port," Lt. Bell points out that the Ohio River is one of the major arteries for commercial goods in the U.S.

"Over 24 million tons of commercial commodities passed through Cincinnati in 1976. This consisted mostly of chemicals, fuel oil, gasoline, coal, salt, raw materials and bulk commodities, transported on these rivers by barges or tows.

"The size of these tows can run up to 1200 feet

in length — that is, several barges together. Now there may be several 1000-foot or 1200-foot vessels going up the river at a time and they are treated like any other large boat. The Agency for control of these is the U.S. Coast Guard."

Importance of the river as a commercial waterway was made known to Cincinnatians when the river froze for the first time this year, holding up much-needed supplies of fuel oil and salt for snow-clogged streets.

Because of their size, barges can carry such bulk commodities much more cheaply than any other way, Lt. Bell points out.

Control of oil pollution is part of the Coast Guard's responsibility also, along with boat safety.

"Each and every chemical and oil spill that occurs in the Ohio River, be it accidental or otherwise, must be reported to the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency," he says.

To support the Coast Guard, the Cincinnati Reserve Unit operates a security patrol seven days a week all year. During the summer, river patrols include barge boardings, recheck of pollution sites for continued clean up or new spillage, aids to navigation, bridge light inspection, search and rescue and general safety.

When the unit boat is in the water it maintains radio watch, enabling it to respond quickly to calls for assistance in search and rescue missions.

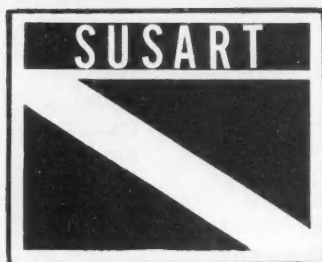
The Cincinnati Unit, to maintain this year-round daily coverage, volunteers for more man hours than are called for in drill regulations. For this a unit commendation award has been recommended.

The real rewards are in personal satisfaction, Lt. Bell maintains. He is happy about the fact that the Coast Guard is geared to safety, survival and research, not to be a combative military force, although they must respond as a military unit in a national emergency.

The Cincinnati Reserve Unit, he thinks, is an example of dedication to those peaceful concerns.

"What we have here is a small network of people who care about what happens to the community we live in. As a part of the hospital, as well as part of the community, I feel proud to be a part of that."

SEARCH & RESCUE UNDERWATER



PA3 J. F. Mogensen

This article is dedicated to the men of SUSART. A special thank you goes to Bud Boyle, commander of SUSART, whose help made this article possible.

Late on a bitter cold, January night, volunteer scuba divers pitted their lives against the frozen Illinois River. Under three feet of solid ice, divers worked against an unpredictable current, large chunks of ice and jagged wreckage to recover bodies from a Coast Guard helicopter.

Earlier that day the HH52 helicopter crashed into the icy Illinois River while flying an ice surveillance mission for the Second District. Emergency and rescue forces were soon at the scene of the accident. The Coast Guard was not alone in responding to the crash, SUSART was also there.

SUSART, Springfield Underwater Search And Rescue Team, came to the aid of the Coast Guard that night as they have often assisted others.

SUSART is a volunteer unit of trained, selected scuba and skin divers available, on a 24-hour-a-day basis, for emergency service at the request of all law and safety organizations. In May, 1960, it was formed to provide qualified underwater search and recovery services to both public agencies and authorities and to private individuals in the central Illinois area. SUSART also promotes conservation and water safety programs and educates the public on scuba and skin diving safety without charge.

SUSART has performed numerous underwater search and rescue missions as well as repair missions under varying circumstances. Operations have included underwater repairs to the water supply systems of Springfield,

Carlinville and Tallula, Illinois; recovery of drowning victims; recovery of personal objects lost underwater ranging from boats, motors, eye-glasses, billfolds and evidence for law enforcement authorities to automobiles and diesel trucks; and other items too numerous to list. Although diving operations have always been conducted in low-visibility waters in all types of weather, winter and summer, and under all conditions, SUSART has maintained a perfect record.

As a nonprofit organization, SUSART is financed by members' dues and donations received from those for whom underwater search, recovery and repair services are performed. Donations, though, are never a prerequisite to service.

Members of SUSART come from all walks of life. Membership is voluntary and all members share a responsibility to the community and fulfill that responsibility, often at personal and financial sacrifices. A member of SUSART obligates himself to remain up to date in techniques, new equipment and to remain in top physical condition. Mainly, his responsibility is to himself.

Membership is open to any male, 21 or older, in good physical condition, who possesses average swimming ability and is willing to make the required sacrifices in time and effort to satisfactorily complete the SUSART training program.

The training program, undertaken by all SUSART candidates, is rigorous. It covers a wide range of subjects including thorough instruction in the use of scuba and skin diving equipment. Underwater recovery techniques are also heavily emphasized. The 60-hour course is comprised of classroom instruction, swimming pool practice, open water dives and



SUSART works as a team.

written practical examinations. Each candidate serves a six month probation period and participates in a minimum of four operational field dives before acceptance as a full member.

The SUSART member recognizes three primary differences in the obligations of search and rescue divers as compared to those of the sport or recreational diver.

1. The search and rescue team diver is obligated to fellow citizens to insure that he remains in the best possible condition in order to provide the maximum personal effort when required for emergency search and rescue.
2. The search and rescue team diver is obligated to sacrifice personal time and convenience in order to provide his community with his services whenever required; day or night, weekend or daily for emergency calls. He does this in the spirit of realization that he is trained in an unusual pursuit, and so makes his services available to those who need him.
3. The search and rescue diver is obligated to assist to his fullest capability, regardless of water, weather, or area conditions, when his services are needed in an emergency situation.

Most individuals observing a search and rescue diver in action fail to take one thing into consideration; the diver's personal mental attitude. A diver's mental attitude is an important factor in maintaining a successful operation. To maintain a good personal attitude, the diver must cope with two different kinds of people on scene and understand their attitudes and feelings while he is performing his job.

One type of person at that emergency will always be the victim's relatives or close friends. They will show signs of shock, extreme concern and, sometimes, total incoherence. These attitudes will affect the operational procedures.

The morbidly curious will also be present at the scene of an accident, especially when an

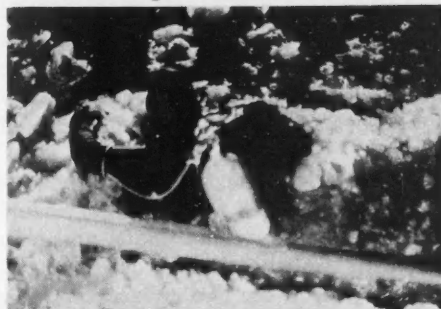
emergency situation takes place. They will not help the situation with their irreverent attitude toward those needing assistance. Also, their desire to witness sensationalism and their constant interference will undoubtedly hamper the diving procedures.

These two kinds of people on scene will sometimes depress the diver. The diver may also feel unequal to the task, or that onlookers will find him wanting in capability. A completely positive attitude toward the operation is of utmost importance; The confusion of the scene will present enough problems to the dive. A SUSART diver learns to divorce himself from these distracting thoughts and to cope with these people.

With all these things taken into account, a person may feel that being a SUSART diver is not worth the problems it sometimes presents. These obligations are of no petty nature. The rewards for the service that he provides are rarely of a nature to inspire him. He will often be criticized and possibly ridiculed by those who are either self-styled experts or individuals who know nothing of the problems and risks involved.

This man's only real satisfaction comes from the realization that he is contributing a little more; he is making himself available to those who may or may not appreciate his help; and in doing so, he justifies his existence in a less selfish manner than those who are content to remain as non-contributors to their community.

It is admitted, in an age of material values; the age of "If it doesn't pay off in cash, don't get involved," attitudes, he may appear to some as a rather naive character. His personal rewards, however, are of a nature that cannot be understood by the selfish. The character he displays by his choice, is much more valuable to him than his detractors will ever be ready to admit. He does, in fact, display the same high ideals of service that Coast Guardsmen strive for in the best performance of their duties.



SUSART member entering icy Illinois River.

Reggie's RIVER RIPPLES



Australian television camera crew film a special report on OMEGA Stations at OMEGA Station LaMoure ND.

In early January, the Coast Guard was contacted by the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) concerning the possibility of filming a special report about OMEGA stations. This special report which is similar to our "60 Minutes", was primarily aimed to quell rumors among Australians as present plans are for the eighth, and final, OMEGA station to be built there.

Rumors had it that these stations are top secret organizations which are heavily guarded with gun towers, sentry dogs, armed guards, etc., would be a primary target in the event of a nuclear holocaust, that entry to anyone but government agents was forbidden, and that the land around the site was now barren. After proper approval, LaMoure ND was selected and filmed.

After the filming was complete, the head of the camera crew stated that the film should dispel the fears of the Australians and may prove to be the biggest step toward reaching an agreement between the two governments for building the final station.



Airman William R. Adkins, USCG, may be the first Naval Air Technical Training Center Student to graduate from a technical course while confined to a hospital bed. Airman Adkins was admitted to Navy Memphis Regional Medical Center just two days prior to his scheduled graduation from the Aviation Structural Mechanic H (Hydraulics) Course, Class A1, held in Memphis, Tn.

He didn't simply get by. Adkins graduated second in his class with a final grade average of 92.30 in a class of 45.

Now available is a booklet entitled ... "History of Blacks in the U.S. Coast Guard" written by Linda E. Townsend, SK3 U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, and Dupree Davenport, PA3,



A COAST GUARD KITE? — BM3 James E. Poe displays one of the better ways to help fill his quota at CG Recruiting Office Tulsa, OK.



Robert F. Bennett, Governor of the State of Kansas Signs the National Transportation Week Proclamation. Among many who witnessed the ceremony is (in uniform) CW04 L. Rosa, Commanding Officer of Group Missoure River.

U.S. Coast Guard Active, with help from the Coast Guard Public Affairs Division at CG Headquarters.

It is an informative portrayal of the roles and accomplishments of black Coast Guardsmen throughout the history of the Coast Guard and its vestigial components: The Revenue Cutter Service and the Life Saving Service.

The purpose of this history is not to alienate or elevate the role of black Coast Guardsmen from that of other Coast Guardsmen, but serves rather to illuminate and interweave the activities of the blacks throughout the overall history. Their role has been neglected in most of the history books written on the Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations. At the same time, other compilations addressing blacks in the military offer scanty, if any, attention to the black Coast Guardsmen.

This booklet is in no way exhaustive; research continues. However, it is presented to provide an overview of blacks from the beginning of the "Coast Guard" until...

Interested persons should write: Human Relations Counselor Facilatator, Second Coast Guard District, 1520 Market St., St. Louis, Mo. 63103, Attn: BM1 Craig D. Lewis.

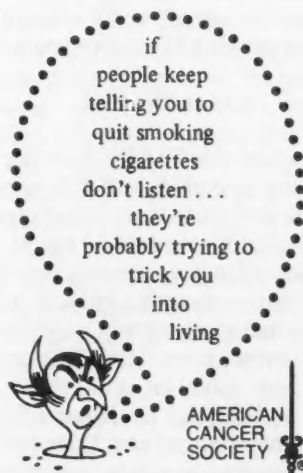
SS1 B.C. Wimpee of the Nashville Reserve unit recently supervised the preparation of a dinner serving the southern Accreditation of colleges and schools. Wimpee, who served seven years active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard, is now an instructor and supervisor of the Food Service Program at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

All perscnnel attached to and serving on board Coast Guard Loran-C Station Sitkinak between 9 March 1975 and 30 August 1975 are now authorized to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon for providing unprecedented and exceptional navigational services as part of the North Pacific Loran-C Chain.

In the case of a man overboard, you should know all about, "HYPOTHERMIA". For more detailed information call or write: Commander Health Services Branch, Second Coast Guard District, 1520 Market Street, St. Louis, Mo. 63103. Phone (314) 425-4663



IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY — Newly commissioned Ensign Raymond Meyer USCGR, assigned to St. Louis 1 respects a Naval tradition by passing on a "Silver Dollar" to his wife for his first salute at CG Base St. Louis.



NEWS OF SPECIAL

NEW CLOTHING LOCKER PROCEDURES

It is Coast Guard policy that every enlisted member of the Coast Guard will have a source for uniforms to replace seabag items at standard Clothing Locker prices. Because of the widely scattered locations of units in the Second District, it is impractical to position Clothing Lockers throughout the entire area to provide over-the-counter support to all members. Therefore, a mail order system is available for all Regular male personnel within the District to order items from the Clothing Locker at Base St. Louis. All items for Reserves and females will be ordered from RTC Yorktown.

CG-3019, Receipt for Clothing and Small Stores, and CG-3019A, Receipt for Clothing and Small Stores (female) will be used by the Coast Guard members for initiating mail order requests. Each unit should have a supply of these forms on hand. If not, the forms should be ordered through SURF under National Stock No. 7530-00-F01-2620 for CG-3019 and 7530-01-GF2-5610 for CG-3019A. (The unit-of-issue is HD)

Individual members should complete the form and forward to the appropriate Clothing Locker, making sure that the quantity and correct size are listed. Payment for the items ordered may be accomplished by the checkage of the members payroll or by check or money order accompanying the appropriate form.

Cover Thy Self

Last August the Family Housing Manual (CG-398) was amended, and this amendment changes the ability of Coast Guard personnel to make claims for damages to, or loss of, personal property located in government leased housing. Personnel claims resulting from damage to or loss of personal property of Coast Guardsmen occupying government leased housing quarters, are *not* payable under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act. Because of this change Coast Guardsmen living in leased housing quarters are strongly encouraged to maintain appropriate insurance coverage to protect themselves against possible losses.

U.S. Savings Bonds

The time is approaching when the Coast Guard will begin the 1977 annual Bond drive. The Second District has a goal this year of 85% (the 1976 drive produced a participation rate of 81%). While most people are aware of the advantages of buying Savings Bonds through the payroll savings plan, many persons still doubt whether they can afford it. The real question is "can you afford not to save?" Everyone needs some type of emergency fund to convert to cash when needed. Savings Bonds can easily be that fund and it doesn't require a large investment. As little as \$3.13 per payday can get you started and you can easily increase the amount with each rate and pay raise you receive along the way. This is the simplest way to save and the end results will be very surprising. Think about it before your Savings Bond Canvasser calls on you. It's the future you're thinking about!

Travel Tip

Effective April 1, 1977, reimbursement for the use of Privately Owned Conveyance (POC), authorized as "More Advantageous to the Government" will be on an actual expense basis only. Reimbursements will be limited to the following: fuel, oil, parking fees, ferry fares, road, bridge and tunnel tolls and winter "plug-ins". Expenses incurred for mechanical repair, periodic maintenance or emergency road service, regardless of cause will not be reimbursable. Use of a POC for "our convenience" remains at the 7¢ per mile rate.

Joint Accounts

Joint accounts have been called "poor men's wills," as some believe they are an easy way to transfer property at death. Unfortunately it's not that simple. There are various types of joint accounts depending upon the family's needs. Joint ownership of real estate may not prove to be a tax advantage in some cases; so, before you depend upon joint accounts or joint ownership of property, discuss it with your legal assistance officer.

SPECIAL INTEREST

NEW CHAMPUS CONTRACTORS FOR ARKANSAS, NEBRASKA

Beginning March 1, 1977, Arkansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Incorporated will process all claims for professional (such as physician) and institutional (such as hospital) care received in Arkansas by beneficiaries of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). They currently process only claims for professional care from that state.

Beginning on the same date, Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company will process all claims for professional and institutional care received in Nebraska by CHAMPUS beneficiaries. For that state, they currently process only institutional claims.

The two organizations were selected on the basis of competitive bidding. Each submitted the best overall proposal for administering payments of CHAMPUS claims from the state for which the contract was awarded, according to Defense Department officials.

DoD officials have asked affected CHAMPUS beneficiaries to begin submitting claims to the new contractors after February 28, 1977, even if the care was received before that date.

The address for claims from Arkansas is: Arkansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Incorporated, Post Office Box 2181, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

The address for claims from Nebraska is Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, 3301 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131.

FEDERAL FIREARMS REGS

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has ruled that members of the Armed Forces who commute to their duty stations across state lines may purchase a firearm in the state in which they are on active duty *as well as* in their state of residency. Previously, the Treasury Department bureau had considered the location of the active duty station as the only state of residency for purchasing a firearm.

The Gun Control Act of 1968 requires that a person be a legal resident of the state in which he or she purchases a firearm. If that person is not a resident of the state, the purchase must be transacted through a federally licensed firearms dealer, unless the purchase is in a state which has contiguous state legislation.

In states with military bases near borders with other states, such as the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, the ruling means military personnel who purchase firearms may now take them home from either the state where they work or reside.

For the purposes of Federal firearms laws, (Title 18, U.S. C. Chapter 44), a member of the Armed Forces is considered a resident of the state in which his permanent duty station is located. If a member of the Armed Forces commutes daily from his residence in one state to his duty station in another state, he would be considered a resident of BOTH states under the new ruling. This means he can purchase any type of legal firearm in either state.

Bonus Time!

Want to supplement your income? Need a vacation bonus? One simple way to put those extra dollars in your pocket while increasing productivity of the Coast Guard is to get active in the Beneficial Suggestion Program. If you have a better way to do even the simplest task or you know of a job that doesn't require doing, submit your idea to the incentive award committee for evaluation via your "ubiquitous" suggestion box.

So far this year \$980 has been awarded to civilians and military members of the Second District as part of the incentive award program. If the Coast Guard is going to maintain its progressive image as a "can do" organization, we need to find ways to do more with less. Innovative beneficial suggestions contribute toward increased productivity allowing the Coast Guard to do more and more. Constantly increasing productivity is the American way. We want it to be the Coast Guard way also. Submit a "benisug".

FREEDOMS FOUNDATION CONTEST OPENS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13, (AFPS) — The 1977 Freedoms Foundation letter writing program for Armed Forces members opened Oct. 1, 1976, with the selection of the theme — "My Responsibilities in Keeping My County Free." This will be the Foundation's 29th annual awards program.

Individuals on active duty or serving in the reserve components have until Oct. 1, 1977 (closing date) to submit their 100 to 500 word statements on the theme to the Awards Administration, Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

The materials or subject matter used by entrants should relate to one or more points of the American Credo or the general philosophy it embodies.

All entries from the Armed Forces are in a separate Government competition called "Valley Forge Patriots Awards" and must include name, rank, service number, service designation, military address, and permanent home address.

Principal recipients will receive the coveted, encased George Washington Honor Medal and a \$100 U.S. Savings bond, with other recipients receiving Savings Bonds, Medals and Certificates.

Senior ROTC members (college) compete in the Valley Forge Patriots Award contest along with members of the Reserve establishment and the Reserve components.

Junior ROTC members (high school) are also eligible to compete, and JROTC members now follow the same guidelines as active and Reserve members, and they receive the same awards.

The Freedoms Foundation presents its prestigious principal awards each year on George Washington's Birthday in high level ceremonies at Valley Forge.

The foundation has as one of its basic goals "... to contribute to the development of responsible citizens and the practice of responsible citizenship, and to make Americans proud of America."

Its intent in sponsoring the contest is to "... search for worthy efforts which strengthen an understanding of freedom and the fundamentals of a free society."

The Freedoms Foundation Awards include many categories, not one, with awards going to individuals, schools, organizations and corpora-

tions that advance the concept of American freedom.

This includes every American citizen and also embraces newspaper stories and cartoons from leading print media and radio and TV programs from top American broadcast stations and networks.

Loneliness. Nobody needs it.



Find the strength of family values in God's family—in your house of worship.

There's a cure for loneliness—in the strength that families offer. In family values of love, and helping. Remember, you're part of God's family. And you can find the strength of family values in your house of worship—working with others, giving of yourself. Then you're not lonely, and there's also help for the problems we all face.

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